

means for allowing handsfree two-way speech communication with an emergency report receiving center via the microphone, the loudspeaker, and the handsfree system circuit; and

a volume control circuit connected to the loudspeaker for automatically controlling a volume level of sound generated by the loudspeaker at a predetermined constant level or higher.

9. (Amended) In a vehicle including an audio system, a method of reporting an emergency, comprising the steps of:

allowing handsfree speech communication with an emergency report receiving center via a microphone and a loudspeaker; and using a loudspeaker of the audio system as the handsfree speech communication loudspeaker; and

in cases where the loudspeaker of the audio system is wrong, replacing the loudspeaker of the audio system with another loudspeaker of the audio system and thereby using another loudspeaker of the audio system as the handsfree speech communication loudspeaker.

12. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the replacing step comprises the step of replacing the loudspeaker of the audio system with another loudspeaker of the audio system in response to user's manual operation.

13. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the replacing step comprises the step of replacing the loudspeaker of the audio system with another loudspeaker of the audio system in response to a loudspeaker change requirement signal transmitted from the emergency report receiving center.

15. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the replacing step comprises the steps of detecting a level of sound generated by the loudspeaker of the audio system, and replacing the loudspeaker of the audio system with another loudspeaker of the audio system in response to the detected sound level.

87 16. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the replacing step comprises the steps of detecting an impedance of the loudspeaker of the audio system, deciding whether the loudspeaker of the audio system is normal or wrong in response to the detected impedance of the loudspeaker, and replacing the loudspeaker of the audio system with another loudspeaker of the audio system when the loudspeaker of the audio system is decided to be wrong.

Sub D1 17. (Amended) An emergency reporting apparatus for a vehicle including an audio system, the apparatus comprising:

a microphone;
a loudspeaker;
a handsfree system circuit; and
means for allowing handsfree speech communication with an emergency report receiving center via the microphone, the loudspeaker, and the handsfree system circuit;
and

wherein the handsfree speech communication loudspeaker uses a loudspeaker of the audio system ;
means for automatically selecting one from among a plurality of loudspeakers of the audio system as the handsfree speech communication loudspeaker.

Sub D1 88 19. (Amended) An emergency reporting apparatus as recited in claim 17, further comprising a unit manually operable by a user, and means for selecting one from among loudspeakers of the audio system as the handsfree speech communication loudspeaker in response to manual operation of the unit by the user.

Please add new claims 20, 21, 23 and 24 as follows:

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Cont 20. (Newly Added) An emergency reporting apparatus for a vehicle, comprising:
a microphone;
a loudspeaker;

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Concl.

a handsfree system circuit;
a volume control circuit connected to the loudspeaker for controlling a volume level of sound generated by the loudspeaker at a predetermined constant level or higher;
a communication device; and
a processor operates to implement handsfree two-way speech communication with an emergency report receiving center via the microphone, the loudspeaker, the handsfree system circuit, and the communication device.

21. (Newly Added) An emergency reporting apparatus for a vehicle having an audio system including a plurality of loudspeakers, comprising:

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a microphone;
a handsfree system circuit;
a communication device; and
a processor operates to implement handsfree two-way speech communication with an emergency report receiving center via the microphone, the handsfree system circuit, the communication device and at least one selected loudspeaker from among the plurality of loudspeakers of the audio system of the vehicle having determined to be operational.

22. (Newly Added) An emergency reporting apparatus for a vehicle, comprising:

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a microphone;
a loudspeaker;
a handsfree system circuit;
means for allowing handsfree two-way speech communication with an emergency report: receiving center via the microphone, the loudspeaker, and the handsfree system circuit; and
a volume control circuit connected to the loudspeaker for automatically controlling a volume level of sound generated by the loudspeaker at a predetermined constant level or higher during emergency reporting.